



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.state.nj.us/health

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

CLIFTON R. LACY, M.D.
Commissioner

New Jersey State Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council September 9, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Nevins called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

The minutes for the June 2002 New Jersey State Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council Meeting were approved.

CMS UPDATE-

Dr. Sol Nevins

There is no report since there has been no activity during the summer months.

MICU FUTURE PLANNING

Dr. Jennifer Waxler

The revisions of the regulations are currently in the Commissioner's Office for his approval. Once the Commissioner gives his approval, the regulations will go to the Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB) for review. The HCAB has to review the Mobility Assistance Vehicles and Basic Life Support Licensure chapter by law and then the regulations, all four chapters, will be published as a group.

The waiver granting immediate use of Amiodarone, Vasopressin along with the removal of the restriction for intravenous Nitroglycerin has been issued by OEMS on July 15, 2002.

Hunterdon Medical Center's proposal for use of the LMA by basic life support personnel is currently in the Commissioner's Office for review and approval. If this proposal is approved, it will allow Hunterdon Medical Center to create a training and educational program and use of the LMA for a period of six months from approval.

The New Jersey State First Aid Council has approached the MICU Council to create a training and educational program along with drafting protocols for use of Epi-Pen. There is proposed legislation that will allow the first aid squads in the state to carry epinephrine pens on ambulances. Dr. Elliott Justin will present information on this topic.

Recommendations that were made from the ad-hoc committee regarding the OEMS enforcement web site have been reviewed. OEMS will remove all individual warnings and the individual's street address off of the original letters prior to being posted on the enforcement site. This will be accomplished as soon as possible.

OEMS has selected a web-based application that will be used in New Jersey to communicate hospital diversions. This application will be available through the Internet and accessible to all EMS agencies and communication centers.

There was discussion held regarding RSI and the literature that is available to support the safe and effective administration of paralytic agents by ground paramedics. Dr. Livingston, on behalf of the New Jersey Trauma Council, sent a letter stating the group's position for the use of RSI by ground paramedic units. Dr. Sol Nevins distributed a literature search to all Medical Directors prior to the June MICU Advisory Council Meeting. The findings were very favorable and support that the procedure is safe for paramedics.

There was discussion regarding the current standing order for the chest pain protocol. The Standing Order Committee will review a request from Dr. Joseph Hummel to allow administration of aspirin and nitroglycerine prior to initiation of an intravenous line.

EPI-PEN PRESENTATION

Dr. Elliott Justin

A recent bill passed the Senate that would allow EMT-Basics to carry and administer epinephrine through a self-injector (Epi-Pen). There is a similar bill currently in the Assembly. This bill allows the Commissioner to place into regulation the protocol for the Epi-Pen. The New Jersey State First Aid Council (NJSFAC) would like to make an amendment to the bill designating the MICU Advisory Council to write a training program and the treatment protocols for the administration of epinephrine. The NJSFAC believes this method would move faster than waiting for the Commissioner to place protocol in regulations.

A motion was made for the MICU Advisory Council to support the writing a proposal for the training and creation of a treatment protocol for the use of the Epi-Pen by Emergency Medical Technician- Basic. Motion passed 25/6/3.

A discussion occurred specifically stating that the MICU Advisory Council would not be providing medical oversight, just the creation of a training program and a treatment protocol. It was determined that there should be some type of quality medical review on patients that receive the Epi-Pen from an EMT-B.

MEDICATIONS/DEVICES

Dr. Robert Lahita

Dr. Lahita was not present and no report was forwarded by any of the committee members.

STANDING ORDERS

Dr. Larry DesRochers

The committee had a meeting in August and had discussions regarding standing orders, changes to standing orders and alternative methods to medical command communications.

The committee came up with five suggestions that will be reviewed in greater detail at the next meeting. They are:

1. Combine some standing orders
2. Regionalize medical command
3. Pilot study to use protocol driven system
4. Cutting history time down with paramedics
5. Change the Paramedic Law

Dr. Waxler volunteered to complete a literature search for articles that specifically address on-line and off-line medical command.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Jim Cupples

There are three bills that are currently pending regarding the use of Epi-Pens by EMT-Bs.

There are two bills that are currently pending regarding the use of advanced airway equipment by EMT-Bs.

There is a bill that will require police and first responders to stay current with their certifications. Currently, there is nothing that would prohibit any first responder to allow their certifications to expire and maintain their job functions (i.e.: Police and Fire Fighters).

EMS COUNCIL

Dr. Jim Pruden

The 800 MHz Trauma radio system is installed in all 10 trauma centers in New Jersey.

The 800 MHz MICU statewide radio system is in place in a number of ALS communication centers. There are still a number of communication centers that do not have the radio system.

The Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund has added new members.

Introduced through legislation, Taskforce One has been added to the FEMA plan and four additional staff members have been added to the team.

Bill S1227- Fire Uniform Command may include EMS.

Suggestions from the September 11, 2001 incident:

- Systematic Photo IDs is needed for every EMS provider;
- Jersey Emergency Medical Services Communication Plan (JEMS Plan) needs to be utilized;
- Utilization of the new 800 MHz MICU trunk radio network;
- The need to be able to track resources;
- MCI training is needed for all EMS providers;
- Designation of mobility coordinators to be designated by county OEMs;
- Realignment NJSFAC district boundaries with county boundaries;
- MCI Exceptions to N.J.A.C. 8:41, OEMS to review suggestions for regulations clarifying what can be done in an MCI;
- Standardization of resources and easily recognizable stickers for BLS ambulances and ALS units.

New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs

Mr. Marty Hogan

Mr. Mark Veenema presented a one-page document, developed by the MICU program administrators, of exceptions to the current regulations, which would be implemented during MCIs such as 9-11. A motion as made and approved for OEMS to consider the implementation of these exemptions as submitted by the New Jersey Paramedic Program Administrators. A discussion was held and Ms. Way stated that we would have to take the recommendations to determine the best implementation plan

The EMS Coalition will be reporting on the MICU reimbursement issues at this year League of Municipalities held in Atlantic City on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 in the afternoon.

The Leading Edge Conference is coming up October 22, 2002 at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center. There are many great topics being covered this year.

Center for Medicare Services- 2 issues came up recently:

1. There have been recent denials for patients in skilled nursing facilities for duplication of charges. Make sure to check the modifiers. This is happening when MICU is called to a SNF, takes the patient to the hospital and then they are returned within the same day.
2. CMS has recently started to request copies of BLS charts. Make sure that all of the bundled billing agreements with commercial services are in place and that you can meet the request of CMS.

JEMSTAR PROGRAM

Dr. Joseph Hummel

There was no report; the JEMStar Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

OEMS

MS. SUSAN WAY

OEMS has two new staff members. Donald Roberts will be joining the licensing and enforcement section and Jim Baca will be joining the education section.

Regulations are in the Commissioner's Office.

The Variance for Standing Orders is in the Commissioner's Office.

Education

Mr. Robert Clawson

Jersey City Medical Center and Hudson County Community College have together applied for a paramedic didactic program. Most likely they will have their first class in 2003.

No results from the paramedic test since it is this upcoming Saturday, September 14, 2002 in Toms River.

Other Business

A motion was made to honor Dr. Yablonski by presenting him with a plaque honoring his years of dedication to the MICU Advisory Council and EMS System in New Jersey. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 AM

Next Meeting

December 9, 2002
New Jersey Hospital Association
Princeton, New Jersey

2003 Dates

March 10, 2003
June 9, 2003
September 8, 2003
December 8, 2003

Motions:

- A motion was made for the MICU Advisory Council to support the delegation of writing a proposal for the training and creation of a treatment protocol for the use of the Epi-Pen by Emergency Medical Technician-Basic. *Motion passed 25/6/3.*
- A motion was made for OEMS to consider the implementation of mass casualty incident exemptions as submitted by the New Jersey Paramedic Program Administrators. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- A motion was made to honor Dr. Yablonski with a plaque honoring his years of dedication to the MICU Advisory Council and EMS System in New Jersey. *Motion passed unanimously.*